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SOME NOTES ON GUN FLINTS

by Arthur Woodward

It has been said that the knapping of flint is the oldest industry in Great Britain, and certainly after the introduction of flint-lock fire arms in the early part of the 17th century, the making of gun flints became one of the most flourishing industries in that country. Before the days of flint-lock weapons, thousands of years before Englishmen were wearing trousers, paleolithic and neolithic man was burrowing into the chalk strata of England after flint nodules from which to fashion his knives, spear heads and axes. The 17th century Britons simply took over where their stone age ancestors had left off. The ancient workings were reopened, and even the prehistoric tools were copied.¹

The town of Brandon in Suffolk County became the center of the gun-flint making industry around 1686, and thence until 1835 the flint knappers of Brandon turned their entire output of flints into the government magazines. There were other towns near Brandon which also made flints. In 1846-1850 the flint workers of Brandon shifted their scene of activity to Icklingham but continued to live in their own village. Flints were likewise produced at Savenham, Tuddenham and Mildenhall.²

The bulk of the flint used in the making of gun-flints came from Lingheath Common about one to two miles from Brandon, southeast of the town. Three miles northeast of Brandon are ancient workings known as "Grime's Graves". H. G. Archer states that although Lingheath had been worked for around 2000 years it was not as old as Grimes' Grave quarry. Permission to dig for flint at Lingheath was originally granted by the trustees of the town. Each digger mined his own flint and stored his "jags" or piles of nodules in sheds, or, if they were left in the open, he covered the freshly mined flint with grass and branches of trees to prevent the sun from reaching the stone and changing its color.

¹ H. G. Archer, "The Oldest Industry in England," *The Wide World Magazine*, March, 1906, 527-533. See also Archer, "Oldest British Industry," Sunday magazine section, *Los Angeles Times*, May 28, 1905.

² Rainbird Clarke, "The Flint Knapping Industry at Brandon," *Antiquity*, March, 1935, 43.

Later the nodules were dried by the fireside before delivering them to the knappers.³

The nodules occur in four or five layers of chalk, and pits were dug about 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 6 feet deep as starting points. Thence, by steps, the digger continued on into the chalk bed and burrowed out for the flint nodules. The latter weighed from 25 to 200 pounds each. In places these chimney-like pits extended down for a depth of 40 feet or more, and when the digger struck a "floor" in the stratum he was mining, he burrowed out for the nodules.

The tools used in excavating the flint were a short iron crow bar and a steel tipped iron pick, fashioned in the shape of the deer antler pick used by the original flint workers in ancient times. A hollowed out piece of chalk with a candle in it provided a primitive miner's lamp.

The large chunks of flint, coated with a hard white layer of mineral, were delivered to the knappers who converted the blocks into flakes. The nodules were first "quartered". Archer said "The art of quartering lies in breaking the stone so as to leave a more or less square edge to begin flaking from. Two sizes of hammers are used weighing three pounds and six pounds respectively. They are hexagonal in section and tapered to leave the face large."⁴

In beginning the knapping, a block of flint was placed upon a thick leather pad supported on the workman's knee. This was tapped with a heavy hammer to see if the flint was sound. If the coat was hard and the hammer rang, the stone was of good quality. If the hammer brought forth a dull sound and jumped, the flint was sure to be double coated and gray or mixed in color and therefore not considered of best grade. The stone was nearly always struck upon the natural, upper surface, because the bottom was softer and the hammer could not bite in as well.

Flaking was the most difficult part of the business. Many knappers were unable to flake properly. The

³ Archer, "Oldest Industry," 527-533.

⁴ *Ibid.*

knack lay in being able to strike the stone properly at the right angle and in the exact spot with an even force. Sir Francis H. S. Knowles, one of the most scientific students of the gun flint industry, presents the clearest picture yet given of one of these craftsmen:

The knapper is seated on a low stool to the side of a circular bole formed of a section of a large tree trunk (elm or oak). The knapper sits with his left leg extended tangent to and touching the side of the bole, his right elbow closely set into his right groin and his wrist resting on his left thigh.

The end of the knapping hammer is grasped in the fingers of the right hand with the thumb resting upon the flat surface of the haft to prevent the hammer turning in his hand when the blow is delivered.

The knapping blow is given entirely by the wrist, the forearm being held quite still and pressed close to the body. For thin flakes the force required is little more than due to the weight of the hammer falling through an arc about six inches in length, but for a thick flake, a good sharp blow is necessary.

The stake is set about four or five inches from the edge of the bole with its long edge at right angles to the long axis of the hammer and forearm.

When there is no flake in position, the blow falls on the leather at the root of the stake and clears the upper edge of the stake by about half an inch.

The flake to be cut into gunflints is held in the left hand with the bulbar surface upper most and is pressed firmly on the edge of the stake making contact with the right hand side of the stake facing the knapper. The thumb is pressed in the bulbar side of the flake, while the fingers are pressed at the same time on the back of the stake and on the under side of the flake so as to secure a rigid contact.

The striking edge of the knapping hammer is about one tenth of an inch thick and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. When new, the head of the knapping hammer is about eight inches long and the edge is square, but when worn by use the edge becomes oblique, sloping down from left to right. From time to time this obliquity is removed by filing.⁵

Archer states that a knapper could tell at a glance how many, and what kind of flints each flake would make. A good flake would produce four flints, and a very good one would make five. Each knapper had his own peculiar style which enabled him to tell his flints at a glance. An expert knapper could knock off flints blindfolded.⁶

Knowles remarks that, "The French knappers (now extinct) used a hammer head in the form of a thin disc which made a point contact on the flake, but they were unable to produce the undercut fracture by means of a single blow. They produced the under cut by removing a series of small flakes or 'gnawing', as the English flint knappers term it. Between 1838-1848, French gunflints with their 'gnawed' edges and heels were sent to Brandon to be trimmed by the single blow, undercut fracture.

"From a technical standpoint, the undercut fractures on gun flints are of great interest. In normal flaking,

the parent block bears the pit of the percussion or negative conchoid, while the flake which is detached bears the positive conchoid of bulbar swelling. In gunflints the 'knot' or mark of percussion which takes the form of a demi-cone is formed by the reaction of the stake and not by the hammer.

"When knapped, the end of the flake projects about half an inch beyond the edge of the stake and the left-hand corner of the hammer, when in action, is over the mid point of the width of the flake."⁷

Thomas Wilson, in his report on the manufacture of gun flints, stated that the gun flints of commerce were divided into 23 classes according to the size and shape required for different arms. Usually, however, there were only about nine standard sizes of gun flints used, but it is to be understood that special locks might require specially sized flints.⁸

The number of flints produced by the individual workman varied according to the skill of the knapper. Archer remarked that a good worker could flake so fast that the sound of the blow and the falling flake hitting the tub were simultaneous. An expert knapper could knock off from 5,000 to 7,000 flakes per day, and a record was 63,000 flakes a week. This record was for the flakes only. The finished flints took longer, but a good flint-maker could turn out between 2,000 and 3,000 flints daily or between 12,000 and 18,000 per week.⁹

An author in the mid-19th century describing the manufacture of Brandon flints said:

The man (the "cracker") has before him three open casks into one of which he drops the larger flakes, into the second the flakes of less size and into the third the smallest flakes.

Each cask goes to a separate workman called a *napper* who finishes them into flints, as musket flints, carbine flints, horse pistol flints, single barrel flints, double barrel flints and pistol flints. One cracker can keep three nappers employed.¹⁰

According to Wilson, the average weekly output of gun flints for 20 Brandon workmen was from 200,000 to 250,000. Flints sold at about one dollar per 1000.

The flint knappers used time candles in lieu of clocks to measure their working hours. Candles were divided into three parts by means of small flint flake wedges, each part between the flints burned for one hour. Chalk candlesticks of primitive form were also used.

The knapper reckoned his finished flints by the hundred. He picked them out, five at a time, with a nail and brushed them into a tin. He tallied each

⁷ Knowles, "Manufacture of Gunflints," 207.

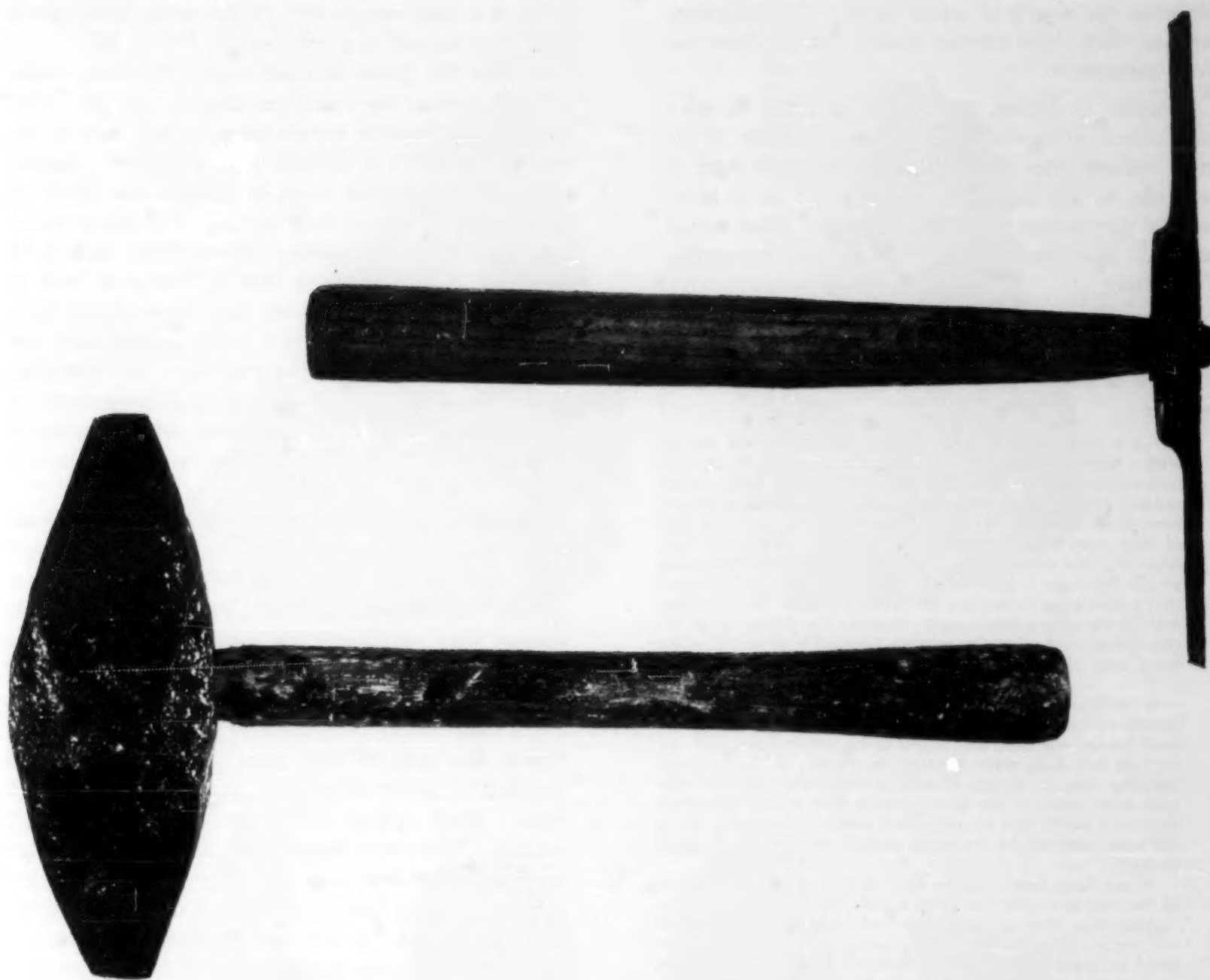
⁸ Thomas Wilson, "Arrowpoints, Spearheads and Knives," *Report of the United States National Museum*, Washington, 1897, 861-864.

⁹ Archer, "Oldest Industry," 527-533.

¹⁰ Charles Tomlinson, *Cyclopaedia of Useful Arts and Manufactures*, 2 vols., London, 1852, I, 690.

⁵ Sir Francis H. S. Knowles and Alfred S. Barnes, "Manufacture of Gunflints," *Antiquity*, XI, No. 42 (June 1937), 201-207.

⁶ Archer, "Oldest Industry," 527-533.



Knapping hammer (above) and flaking hammer (below) from Brandon, England. Courtesy, Smithsonian Institution.

hundred by placing a spare flint at one side. The older workmen used strange, cabalistic signs in their tallying system, the meaning of which was forgotten, so long had they been in use. The flints were packed into tubs or sacks, carrying between 5,000 and 20,000, and the knappers sold their products "*per mille*", using the French term which had been introduced into the country by French prisoners of war taken during the Marlborough campaign.¹¹

From Brandon the flints were sent to Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham and London for transshipment overseas. In the old days the British and foreign governments bid for the finest flints. Prior to the Crimean War, the largest order for gun flints came from the Turks. They ordered 11,000,000 of them for their forces.¹²

¹¹ Archer, "Oldest Industry," 527-533.

¹² *Ibid.*

The color of gun flints seems to have been one of the criteria for judging their excellence, although in reality the color would seem to have but little bearing upon the quality of the stone. One English authority on shooting, Col. Peter Hawker, writing in the early 1820's said: "None are better than the most transparent of the common black flints. Great quantities (considered as good as any) come to London from Lord Cadogan's estate, at Brandon. They should be put in with the flat side upwards, stand well clear of the hammer [frizzen], and yet be long enough to throw it."¹³

In more recent years modern shooters of the flintlock pieces seem to favor light-colored flints. James E. Hicks states that, "Black flints were the poorest and were used

¹³ Lt. Col. Peter Hawker, *Instructions to Young Sportsmen*, 4th edition, London, 1825, 98.

only when the supply of others failed." Contemporary 18th and early 19th century sources do not bear out Hicks' assertion.¹⁴

According to Archer, the natives in Africa regarded light colored or spotted flints as being inferior to the darker colored ones, hence it was a common trick of the trade to dip the light colored flints in a secret chemical preparation to darken the stone. This author also states that there was no difference in the quality of the flints.

A writer for the *Cyclopaedia or Universal Dictionary of Arts, Sciences and Literature*, London, 1819, devotes a number of paragraphs to gunflints, their manufacture, sizes, etc.:

For a musquet one inch and five eighths, for the length with a width of one inch and a quarter; the thickness at the back side one third of an inch, and the tapering to be rather sudden than gradual, something like the end of a chisel. Such flints fit well in the vice, being previously laid in a bed of thin sheet lead, or for want of it, in stout leather. The edge of a flint thus formed is far less subject to splinter than where the angle is more acute. It may perhaps be objected that a thin edge strikes fire better than a thick one, but that will be for only a few rounds; whereas the thicker edge resists better, and preserves an equable facility of scintillating for a long time.

. . .

A carbine flint should be one inch and a quarter in length by one inch in width; that for a pistol, such as is used among our military, ought to be rather more than an inch in length by three quarters in width. In fixing them into the vise, great care should be taken that the left side pass down clear of the barrel, which they would otherwise hack very much, and be themselves subject to splinter, while the cock itself might, by being unduly checked, be snap at its neck.

When flints have a curve, they should always be so fixed in the vise as to give the curve a downward direction; since, in that way, they act more forcibly, and offer the greatest resistance. Straight flints, after being so far rounded as to yield no sparks, when their chamfered sides may have been uppermost, may be again rendered serviceable by being reversed, so as to bring their flat sides uppermost. Soaking flints in water restores them partially, probably by supplying them with hydrogen, but in a very small degree, and that not permanently. The best flints are such as, when acted upon by steel, produce strong, lasting coruscations which emit a sulphureous smell, and are sufficiently large to leave some little stain on tissue paper, or on fine lint. Such will not only be found to yield a certain fire, but to break up admirably under the hammer employed to reduce them to splinters, and to fit them for the soldier's use. On the contrary, however clear, black and firm a flint may appear, if its sparks are not vivid, and highly sulphureous, it ought to be at once thrown aside. The hardest flints are generally the best.

This same author also states that agates and carnelians, while hard, had been tried but proved to be too brittle. However, they would do in a pinch if no true flints were available. He also said that musket flints were packed 2000 in small casks called half barrels weighing 2^{qrs} 14 lbs., carbine flints,

3,000 to a cask, weight 2^{qrs} 10 lbs. while 4,000 pistol flints were packed in a cask, weight 2^{qrs} 15 lbs.

In 1837 Dr. James Mitchell visited Brandon, where he was informed the French no longer made gun flints and that the Brandon makers were the only ones in the world. About 70 or 80 men were employed. Apparently the French flint knappers hugged the secret of their methods close to their breasts. Tomlinson stated that "Flint of the best quality adapted to the making of gun-flints, is comparatively rare in France as well as in England. Dolomieu states that where twenty beds of flint were found lying one above another only one or two of these would afford good flint. On the banks of the Cher, flints were obtained by sinking shafts to the depths of 40 or 50 feet, from which horizontal galleries were driven through the one good stratum found."¹⁵

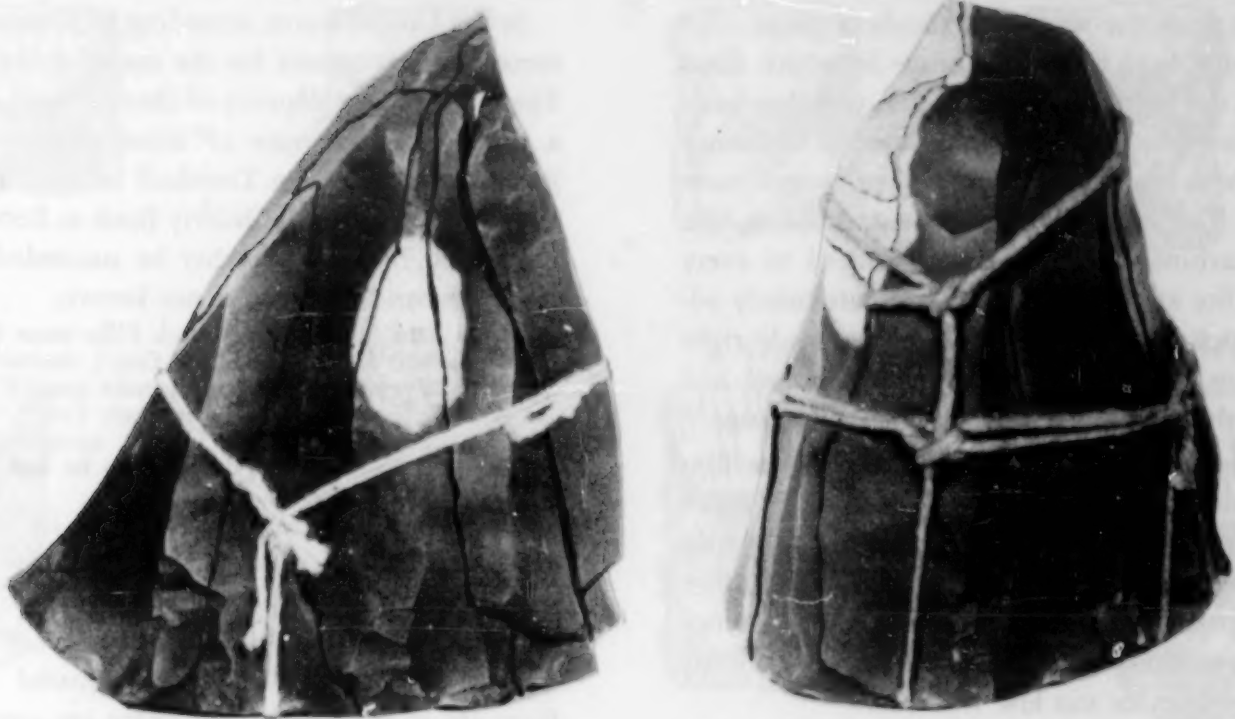
According to Clarke, French flints were first made regularly as a business in 1719, although flintlocks had been in vogue long before that date. During the 18th century French flints from the Champagne and Picardy regions were considered too valuable for export. In general one might say that the French flints were of the honey or taffy colored types, with rounded heels, thinner and flatter than those of English manufacture. French flint nodules were more globular in form, the knobbed or branch flints were usually full of imperfections. Good nodules seldom weighed more than 20 pounds. When they weighed less than two pounds they were seldom worth working. The French flints had more of a greasy lustre, and the best ones were smooth and fine grained. It was said that the translucency of the flint of the best grade was such that a slice of it 1/50th of an inch thick, placed upon a print should be clear enough to read through. Flints manufactured in Germany, on the other hand, were made from agates and conglomerates and were less efficient and more expensive than either the French or English flints. There were rarer places in Europe where flints were made. In Albania for example, the chief flint knapping was done in Valona and in the village of Drasnovitz. Here, the flint work was different from either the British or the French, the flints being uniformly chipped on both faces.¹⁶

Ezekiel Baker, well known gun maker in England during the latter part of the 18th and early part of the 19th centuries, became concerned over the variance in the sizes of gun flints. Said he "The irregularity in size

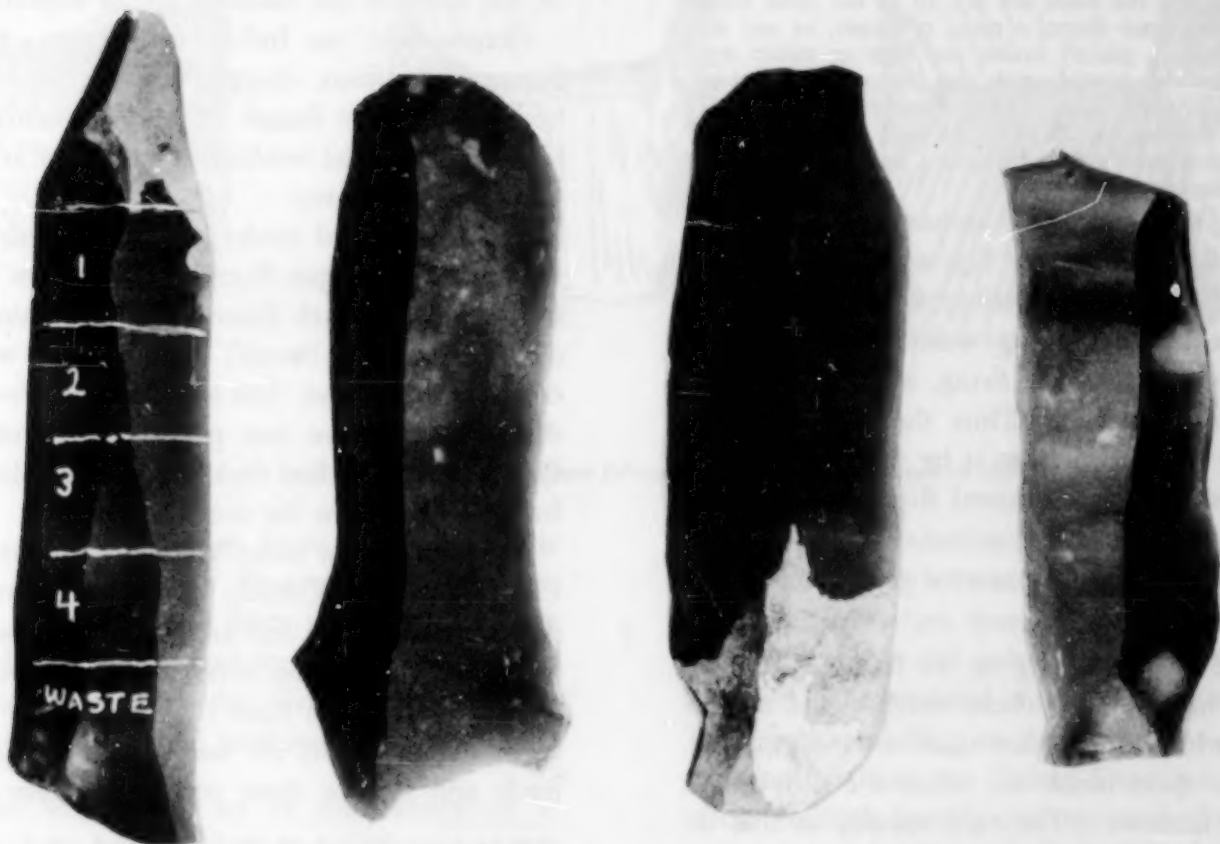
¹⁵ Tomlinson, *Cyclopaedia*, 690.

¹⁶ Clarke, "Flint Knapping," 51. Tomlinson, *Cyclopaedia*, 688. Arthur J. Evans, "On the Flint Knappers' Art in Albania," *Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, XVI, (1887), 65-68.

¹⁴ Maj. James E. Hicks, "U. S. Military Shoulder Arms, 1795-1935: The Smooth Bore Flintlock as a Military Arm," *Journal of the American Military History Foundation*, I, no. 1, (Spring 1937), 23.



*Brandon flint cores which have been flaked and reassembled to indicate the process of flaking.
Collections of the Davenport Public Museum.*



Flakes ready to be made into flints. Collections of the Davenport Public Museum. Photos by Barbara H. L. Woodward.

of flints, however, causes great inconvenience, particularly for muskets; and complaints have been frequently made, with great justice, as to the detriment under which the service lies from the want of a standard gauge. To obviate this evil I have adopted a gauge by which flints may be cut to one uniform size; and the plan has been so highly approved by the Honorable Board of Ordnance and the East India company, that they have gauges made for their use. The same gauge may be adapted to rifle guns, fusees, carbines and pistols, and indeed to every description of fire arms; and must prove particularly advantageous where the jaws of the cocks are made right to receive them." One only wishes that Ezekiel had gone a step further and illustrated his flint-sizing gauge.¹⁷

Baker also emphasized the need of placing the flint in a proper position to strike against the hammer. Failure to do so was one of the causes of misfires. If the cock and hammer were not in the proper position, the flint was likely to strike too high on the face of the hammer and the sparks would not fall into the pan. His remedy for striking too high or too low was this:

If it strikes the hammer so high that the fire is dispersed, then lay double the lead or leather that the flint is fixed in under the flint against the cock, which will lower the fore part of the flint, and cause it to strike the hammer lower; if it strikes too low, double the lead or leather, as before mentioned, under the flint at the fore end of the under jaw of the cock, which will raise it to a proper position to fire. As the jaws of the cocks are not all in the same position, and the flints are not all of the same thickness, nor of the same shape, a piece of paper, or any soft substance, carefully placed under the flint at either end, as may be required, according to the foregoing directions, will fix it sufficiently firm. This remedy will be found useful in the flinting of all locks, as well as muskets, &c. as much depends on the flint being put in properly for the lock to fire true and well.¹⁸

On the other hand the same author points out that a piece might miss fire when the flint was perfectly good and well set. This fault he attributed to the fact that the hammer-face of steel, being welded on, frequently became soft through frequent firing, and the flint cut through the casehardening. Thus the steel was destroyed, and the fire drawn from it by the flint was not as strong as it should be. Blunted flints striking such burned hammer faces drew few or no sparks, and hence the pieces were practically useless until the hammer faces were re-tempered.

Another cause of a miss fire was the faulty flint itself. Some flints had hard spots in them which would neither nip nor break when the shooter tried to re-edge them, nor would these spots break out when the flint struck the face of the hammer. The only remedy in this instance was either to discard the flint or break it down

to secure a new edge entirely. The latter process sometimes made the flint too small for the jaws of the cock and hence useless.

In the United States, according to present information, there were no centers for the manufacture of gun flints. There are various deposits of chert (which is not deemed a true flint) but none of these was used for making gun flints. Col. John Trumbull of the American Army made this entry in his *Orderly Book* at Fort Ticonderoga, Nov. 10, 1776, but whether he succeeded in obtaining the workmen he desired is not known.

A vein of prodigious black Flint stone being discover'd upon Mt. Independence the Gen'l. desires the Commanding Officers of Regiments will make inquiry if there are any Old Countreymen in any of their Corps, who understand the hammering of Gun Flints, upon such a person or persons found, he or they, are to be sent to the Genl. at Head Quarters.¹⁹

There are hundreds of gun flints in the museum at Fort Ticonderoga. The majority of them are light in color ranging from gray to waxy brown. Most of them have the rounded, gnawed heels and are thin and flat. Surprisingly few of the black, squared Brandon type flints are in the collection. There are some flints which might be of local manufacture, but since it was not possible to visit the site of the "vein of prodigious black Flint stone" on Mt. Independence, just across the water from the fort, I could not determine whether the flints were made there or elsewhere. Hence, I believe most of the flints in the museum are of French origin.

Occasionally, on Indian camp sites, particularly in Kansas, gun flints, chipped out of old arrow or spear heads, have been found. These are easily recognizable by their shape and workmanship. They are thin, square, and chipped all over.

The old lists of trade goods are filled with requests for thousands of gun flints, one order, for example, calling for "4,000 black flints for trading guns" and "1,000 ditto for Fowling Pieces". Other orders were for "2000 common flints" and "300 best flints". Twelve flints was the price paid for one pound of leather in trade in Georgia in 1765, and in 1785, one half dozen flints sold for seven pence in the same region.²⁰

These flints are today scattered over the face of the United States and Canada. Every year farmers turn them out of the ground, and archaeologists find them in Indian burials and camp sites. Even after percussion locks were invented, gun flints continued to be manufactured at Brandon. Flints for use as strike-a-lights were also made and sold in those countries where matches were

¹⁹ Col. John Trumbull, *Orderly Book, Bulletin* of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, III, No. 3 (January 1934), 156.

²⁰ *Colonial Records of Georgia*, XXVIII, pt. 2, 106, 107, 271, 272, Galphinton Trading Post accounts, October 12, 1785-December 21, 1787, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

¹⁷ Ezekiel Baker, *Remarks on Rifle Guns*, London, 1835, reprint edition, Huntington, West Virginia, n.d., 35, 36.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 34, 35.

POCKET PISTOL



SINGLE BARREL SPORTER



RIFLE



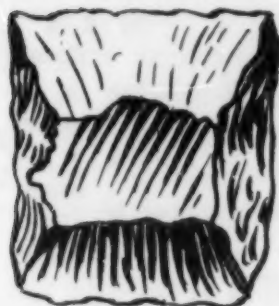
HORSE PISTOL



CARBINE



CARBINE



MUSKET



MUSKET



LONG DANE



LONG DANE



CANNON



Flints made in Brandon by Mr. Herbert Edwards in 1948. Collection of the author.

at a premium. In Mexico today, particularly among the poorer classes in the states of Durango and Zacatecas, flint and steel are used. The flints in these places are chunks of local rock which give forth excellent showers of sparks when struck with the hand forged steels or *eslabones* (dialectically called *islabones* or 'slabones'.)²¹

After World War I the art of flint knapping at Brandon went into sudden decline. Orders for gun flints and strike-a-lights, even in the most backward areas

²¹ Observations made by author in Durango and Zacatecas, Mexico, October 1950.

of the world had declined to such a low point that there was no longer any incentive to continue the craft. There was a period when there were no knappers at work. However, within the past four or five years about four knappers have resumed work as a part time occupation. They send some flints to Africa, but the greatest demand at present is from the United States where the devotees of the flintlock, having used up most of the available old stocks are now calling for fresh flints from Brandon. A few sets of flints, including the sample flakes and one or two flints of each category, rifle, musket, horse pistol, carbine, etc., are being made to order. Judging by a set

Chart of gun flints based on specimens in the collections of the author and the Davenport Public Museum and data from Archer's article.

	Davenport Coll.	Author's Coll.	Archer
LONG DANE (used with lengthy Arab gun).....	none	1½" x 1"	1¾" x 1"
MUSKET.....	1½" x 1½"	1½" x 1¼"	1¾" x 1¼"
	1½" x 1-3/16"	1¼" x 1¾"	
CARBINE.....	none	1½" x 1"	1¼" x 1"
		1½" x 7/8"	
HORSE PISTOL.....	none	1" x ¾"	1" x 1"
POCKET PISTOL.....	9/16" x ½"	11/16" x 5/16"	5/8" x ½"
	¾" x ½"		
SINGLE (single barrelled sporting gun).....	none	7/8" x ¾"	7/8" x 7/8"
FOWLING PIECE.....	1½" x 5/16"	none	1¾" x 1¾"
	1½" x 1"		
RIFLE.....	none	none	7/8" x 7/8"
CANNON.....	2½" x 2¼"	1¾" x 1½"	none
OLD TOWER FLINTS (musket).....	1½" x 1-3/16"	none	none
	1½" x 1½"		
MODERN MUSKET FLINTS.....	1¼" x 15/16"	none	none
FOR AFRICAN TRADE.....	1-5/16" x 1-1/16"		
STRIKE-A-LIGHT.....	2½" x 1½"	1-7/16" x 1¼"	none

recently received from England, manufactured in 1949, the skill of the apprentice knappers is increasing. A very good set of flints, made during the 1880s, is also to be seen in the collections of the Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa.²²

In studying the accompanying chart of flint sizes, it will be noted that although there are minor variations in size within the different categories, still, the flints average up fairly evenly. There are other collections of gun flints in the United States aside from those used in the chart. One in the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York City, contains around 25

²² William Harvey, "Britain's Oldest Industry," *The Rifleman*, Summer, 1947, 25, 28. Personal correspondence with Geoffrey Turner, University Museum, Oxford, England.

flints which came from the stock of a trading post at Butte des Morts, Wisconsin. These are a mixed lot, some are thin, flat, of light colored flint, with round gnawed heels; others are square and black. At least four of these flints appear to be of native American manufacture. There are 91 gun flints in a collection housed in the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wis., which vary considerably in size and shape. Some of these flints are quite thick and crude and were apparently knapped out of the rind of flint nodules. Only seven of this batch are square cut. Judging by the dimensions of both the Heye collection and those in the Wisconsin Historical Society, the majority of these flints were for rifle and musket, with perhaps a few horse pistol flints scattered through the lot.

UNIT LINEAGES OF THE U. S. ARMY

by Ruth Markwood¹

Since shortly after World War I the Army, through its official historical office, has studied the histories of its regiments, battalions and comparable units in order to determine officially their lineages and battle honors. Statements of the lineages and battle honors are then disseminated to a limited number of Army agencies which put them to use in order to stimulate *esprit de*

corps. One such use, for instance, is that made by the Quartermaster General, whose Heraldic Office designs and authorizes unit coats of arms and distinctive insignia based upon approved lineages, and who also issues to units streamers and other devices commemorating their battle honors.

In addition to this highly restricted and individual dissemination, the Army has on three occasions published to a larger audience the lineages of certain of

¹ Miss Markwood is an historian in the Organizational History and Honors Branch, Office of Military History, U. S. Army.

its major units. On 1 May 1921 the Statistics Branch, General Staff, issued "Outlines of History of Regiments, United States Army," a 31-page booklet covering Regular Army regiments, battalions and companies. Distribution appears to have been very limited on this occasion, but on the next two it was as wide as could be wished for. In the *Official Army Register* for 1938 are lineages and honors of all Regular Army units, and in the *National Guard Register* for 1939 are the lineages and honors for all National Guard regiments. No unofficial separate and specific compilation of the lineages and honors of units—so common for foreign armies—has ever been made.

At a time when the need for this information is greater than ever before, there is no published source to which the unit or interested individuals can turn. The many and confusing changes in army organization of the past ten years have left most of the published statements of lineage obsolete or difficult to use. To meet this need, therefore, the Chief of Military History has authorized publication of a new compilation. In view of the emergency, the statements probably will be issued in temporary, processed form, and as a series of books, each covering a branch of service, rather than as a single volume. Eventually a more formal "Army Lineage Book" may be published, but until then these processed lineages will serve.

The new statements of lineage and battle honors planned will contain far more data than found in earlier ones. In addition to the unit's title and lineage, there will be a comprehensive listing of all campaign credits and all decorations, foreign and domestic, including any special privileges or distinctions. The unit coat of arms and distinctive insignia will be illustrated. The lineage of all units that form part of the ancestry of the regiment or battalion covered will be included. And a final section will list published histories of the unit.

The proposed Army lineage books will constitute a definitive source of reference for the units covered, for staff agencies concerned with organizational planning and with army morale, for public relations and troop information officers, for commanders generally, and for military historians. The first branch to be published will be the Infantry, the oldest branch of all.

In the belief that military historians will be interested in the form in which these lineages will be presented, the statements of three units are reproduced below, the 1st Infantry Regiment to represent the Regular Army, the 101st Infantry Regiment to represent the National Guard, and the 301st Infantry Regiment to represent the Organized Reserve Corps.

1st INFANTRY REGIMENT (6th Inf Div RA)

Two regiments have held the designation 1st Infantry since 1784. The first 1st Infantry was constituted as the First American Regiment 3 June 1784 and was consolidated 31 May 1815 with the 5th, 17th, 19th, and 28th Infantry Regiments to form the 3d Infantry Regiment. The second 1st Infantry is the unit whose lineage is given below.

LINEAGE.

Constituted 3 March 1791 as 2d Infantry Regiment and organized the following day. Redesignated 5 March 1792 as 2d Sub-Legion. Redesignated 30 May 1796 as 2d Infantry Regiment. Consolidated 17 May 1815 with 3d, 7th, and 44th Infantry Regiments (see ANNEX) and designated 1st Infantry Regiment. Consolidated 17 April 1869 with 43d Infantry Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps (constituted 21 September 1866), with no change in designation. Assigned 2d Division 24 March 1923. Reassigned 6th Division 16 October 1939. Inactivated 10 January 1949 in Korea. Activated 4 October 1950 at Fort Ord, Calif.

ANNEX. 3d and 7th Infantry Regiments constituted 12 April 1808; 44th Infantry Regiment constituted 29 January 1813; regiments consolidated with 2d Infantry 17 May 1815 and redesignated 1st Infantry Regiment.

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS.

<i>War of 1812</i>	<i>Mexican War</i>
Canada	Monterey
Lundy's Lane	Vera Cruz
Florida 1814, 1815	<i>Civil War</i>
New Orleans	Texas 1861
Louisiana 1815	Missouri 1861
<i>Indian Wars</i>	Mississippi River
Miami	Mississippi 1862
Creeks	Vicksburg
Blackhawk	<i>War with Spain</i>
Seminole	Santiago
Apaches	<i>Philippine Insurrection</i>
Pine Ridge	Samar 1901
Texas 1850	<i>World War II</i>
	New Guinea (with arrowhead)
	Luzon (with arrowhead)

DECORATIONS.

All companies 3d Battalion entitled to **DUC** embroidered MAFFIN BAY. (GO 113, WD, 1946)

COAT OF ARMS.

Shield. Per bend gules and azure, on a bend or a bendlet argent indented of seven and counterindented of the same fimbriated sable.

Crest. On a wreath of the colors the Arabic numeral "1" azure fimbriated or within a garland of laurel vert.

Motto. *Semper Primus* (Always First).

The regiment's campaigns or wars are heraldically represented by the fourteen notches on the diagonal band across the shield. The upper part of the shield is red; this was the color of the old 2d Sub-Legion. The lower part is blue, the Infantry color. The crest with the numeral within the laurel wreath of Victory and the motto long in use by the regiment are self-explanatory.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA.

The insignia is the shield and motto of the coat of arms.

PUBLISHED HISTORIES.

Teresa Viole, *Following the Drum: A Glimpse of Frontier Life* (New York, 1858).

"The First Regiment of Infantry," *The Army of the United States* (eds Theo. F. Rodenbough and William L. Haskin; New York, 1896), pp. 401-13.

101st INFANTRY REGIMENT NG (Mass.) (Non-div)

LINEAGE.

Organized 28 October 1798 as the Columbian Artillery in the Legionary Brigade of Boston, Robert Gardner, Captain. Assigned to Elite, or Advance, Corps, Massachusetts Militia, 6 September 1814; served September-October 1814. Assigned

to 1st Battalion of Artillery, 1st Division, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, as Company B (Columbian Artillery), 25 April 1842. Redesignated Company B, 5th Regiment of Artillery, 1st Division, M. V. M., 4 June 1844. Charter surrendered 9 January 1855 in protest against announced plan of Governor of State "to disband all military companies composed of persons of foreign birth" (Columbian Artillery then composed almost exclusively of Irish-Americans); a civil society simultaneously formed under the name of the Columbian Association.

Columbian Association authorized to form 13th Regiment; regiment organized 3 May 1861 with Company A designated Columbian Guards. Redesignated 9th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment 11 June 1861 and mustered into Federal service at Boston for three years; mustered out of Federal service 21 June 1864 at Boston. Reorganized as 9th Regiment, M. V. M., 18 May 1866. Reorganized as 9th Battalion of Infantry 9 July 1876. Expanded and redesignated 9th Regiment 3 December 1878. Mustered into Federal service as 9th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment 11th May 1898 at Camp Dewey, Mass.; mustered out of Federal service 26 November 1898. Mustered into Federal service for Mexican Border. 25 June 1916; mustered out of Federal service 23 November 1916. Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917; redesignated 101st Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, 22 August 1917; demobilized 28 April 1919 at Camp Devens, Mass.

Reorganized 15 March 1920 as 101st Infantry Regiment, M. V. M. Redesignated 9th Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, 30 November 1920. Redesignated 101st Infantry Regiment 13 September 1921. Inducted into Federal service 16 January 1941 at Boston. Inactivated by elements 29 December 1945 and 3 January 1946 at Camp Patrick Henry, Va., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass. Federally recognized 29 November 1946 at Boston.

HOME STATION: Boston, Mass.

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS.

<i>War of 1812</i>	<i>War with Spain</i>
Without inscription	Santiago
<i>Civil War</i>	<i>World War I</i>
Peninsula	Lorraine
Manassas	Ile de France
Antietam	Champagne-Marne
Fredericksburg	Aisne-Marne
Chancellorsville	St. Mihiel
Gettysburg	Meuse-Argonne
Virginia 1863	<i>World War II</i>
Wilderness	Northern France
Spotsylvania	Rhineland
Cold Harbor	Ardennes-Alsace
	Central Europe

DECORATIONS.

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belg Army, for ARDENNES (GO 43, DA, 1950)

Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, and Company I, entitled to **DDC** embroidered LORRAINE. (GO 109, WD, 1945)

Service Company, entitled to **DDC** embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. (GO 82, 26th Inf Div, 1945)

COAT OF ARMS.

Shield. Argent, a saltire gules cantoned by in chief a cross pattee in base a five-bastioned fort both of the like, dexter, three fleur-de-lis in bend azure, sinister the same in bend sinister.

Crest. That for regiments of the Massachusetts National Guard.

Motto. *Semper Paratus* (Always Prepared).

The shield is white for Infantry with the red saltire to denote Civil War service. The red maltese cross was the badge of the 2d Brigade, 1st Division, V Corps of the Civil War. The red five-bastioned fort was the badge of the 3d Brigade, Provisional Division, V Corps of the War with Spain. The six fleur-de-lis represent the six major operations in which the regiment took part in World War I.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA.

Crest, shield, and motto of the coat of arms.

PUBLISHED HISTORIES.

D. G. Macnamara, *The History of the Ninth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers . . . Army of the Potomac, June 1861-June 1864* (Boston, 1899).

M. H. Macnamara, *The Irish Ninth in Bivouac and Battle; Or, the Virginia and Maryland Campaigns* (Boston, 1867).

James T. Duane, *Dear Old "K"* (Boston, 1922).

F. N. Weaver and P. N. Sanborn, *Story of Company F 101st Infantry, World War II* (Boston, 1947).

301st INFANTRY REGIMENT

ORC (Mass.) (94th Inf Div)

LINEAGE.

Constituted 3 August 1917 as 301st Infantry Regiment, 76th Division. Organized August 1917 at Camp Devens, Mass. Demobilized 25 February 1919 at Camp Devens, Mass. Reconstituted, allotted to the Organized Reserves, and assigned to 94th Division 24 June 1921; organized with Headquarters at Boston, Mass., November 1921. Ordered into active military service (less personnel) 9 June 1942. Reorganized 15 September 1942 at Fort Custer, Mich. Inactivated 4 February 1946 at Camp Kilmer, N. J. Activated 17 December 1946 with Headquarters at Boston, Mass.

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS.

<i>World War I</i>
Without inscription
<i>World War II</i>
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

DECORATIONS.

Service Company entitled to two **DDC** each embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. (GO 431, 94th Inf Div, 1944; GO 5, 94th Inf Div, 1945)

COAT OF ARMS.

Shield. Azure on a bend argent a hub of the first, half facing the sinister spoked; in chief a fleur-de-lis of the second.

Crest. That for the regiments of the Organized Reserve Corps. On a wreath of the colors (argent and azure) the Lexington Minute Man proper. The statue of the Minute Man, Capt. John Parker (H. H. Kitson, sculptor) faces the Common in Lexington, Mass.

Motto. From This Center Liberty Sprang.

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA.

The distinctive insignia is the shield and the motto of the regiment.

PUBLISHED HISTORIES.

None.

A limited number of sets of the text only of volumes one and two of the MILITARY COLLECTOR & HISTORIAN are still available. They may be obtained for \$2.00 for volume one and \$4.00 for volume two, or both volumes for \$5.00. Requests for these sets should be sent to the Secretary, Captain Paul M. Linton, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois.

THE PLATES

U. S. LIGHT ARTILLERY COMPANIES, DRESS, 1857-1872

(Plate No. 37)

With the reorganization of the Regular artillery in 1821 it became the practice to equip one or two of the companies of each of the four regiments as light, horse or field artillery and leave the others to serve as fortress gunners or infantry. In the forty year period to 1861 there were numerous alterations made in the status and armament of these light companies, for dismounting them was a favorite form of economy. But once designated as horse artillery, a company tended to remain such, even though serving on foot. At the time of the plate, the traditional light companies were I and

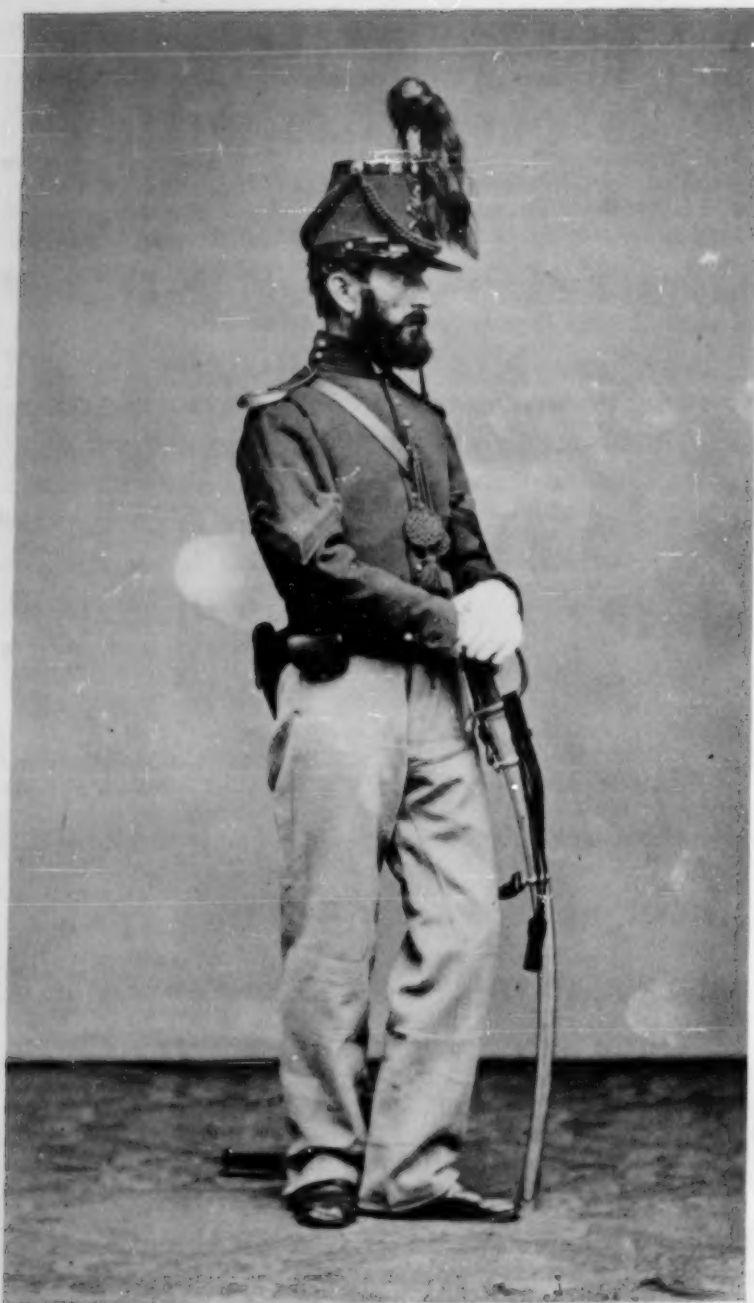
K of the 1st Regiment, A and M of the 2d, C and E of the 3d, and B and G of the 4th.¹

There appears always to have been some distinction in dress between these light companies and the others, yet this distinction was not reflected in uniform regulations. When the Army adopted the frock coat and cloth cap in 1851 the only difference lay in the fact that enlisted men of light artillery wore "brass shoulder knots" instead of worsted epaulets; all artillerymen are

¹ William E. Birkhimer, *Historical Sketch of the . . . Artillery, United States Army*, Washington, 1884, 54-95.



Battery E, 3rd U. S. Artillery, from Harpers Weekly, June 8, 1861.



Corporal of Light Artillery, full dress, 1862.
Courtesy Smithsonian Institution.

illustrated in long blue coats in the Horstmann drawings of that year.²

In 1854, however, the jacket was substituted for the frock coat for all mounted men; probably it had never really been given up.³ This jacket was confirmed by the regulations of 1857 and continued in use thereafter. In 1860, a special jacket with "Russian shoulder knots" was given the officers of light artillery.⁴ In 1858, along with the rest of the Army, the light artillerymen were ordered to wear the Hardee hat and dark blue trousers, but two years later they were allowed to "continue to use the old pattern uniform cap, with red horse hair plume, cord and tassel . . . and the old pattern sky blue trousers. . . ." ⁵

In view of these frequent changes it is difficult to determine exactly what was worn for dress and what for fatigue. Doubtless the battery commander's whim and the status of supplies decided the issue more than regulations. The woodcut of Thomas W. Sherman's Battery E, 3d Artillery in 1861 shows men and officers in frock coats and Hardee hats.⁶ Yet the official photograph, taken probably in 1862, of a light artillery corporal shows the cap with horse hair plume and the red trimmed jacket. It is certain that the latter uniform without scales, and with a plain blue kepi in place of the dress cap, was the one most often worn on the battle fields of the Civil War.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.
Frederick P. Todd

² General Orders 31, AGO, 12 June 1851; *Regulations for the Uniform and Dress of the Army of the United States*, June 1851, Philadelphia: William H. Horstmann & Sons, 1851.

³ General Orders 1, AGO, 20 January 1854.

⁴ General Orders 20, AGO, 6 August 1860.

⁵ General Orders 3, AGO, 24 March 1858. General Orders 20, AGO, 6 August 1860.

⁶ *Harper's Weekly*, 8 June 1861.

THE LAUZUN LEGION, FRENCH NAVY, 1780-1783

(Plate No. 38)

The Lauzun Legion was formed early in 1780 for colonial service under authority of the Ministry of Marine by Armand Louis de Goutant, duc de Lauzun. At the time he held the rank of brigadier in the Army and he retained this army rank even while serving under the Navy.¹ The corps comprised 9 companies: 4 infantry (of which one was of grenadiers, one of chasseurs, and two of fusiliers), 1 artillery, 3 hussars, and 1 of workmen.

¹ Thomas Balch, *The French in America . . . 1777-1783*, 2 vols., Philadelphia 1895, vol II, 29, 30, 160-63; Viscomte de Noailles, *Marins et Soldats Française en Amérique . . .*; Paris, 1903, *passim*; *Memoirs of the Duc de Lauzun, 1747-1783*, New York, 1912.

The personnel was largely German, Polish and Irish, for the Legion was one of the foreign corps of the period raised for overseas service.²

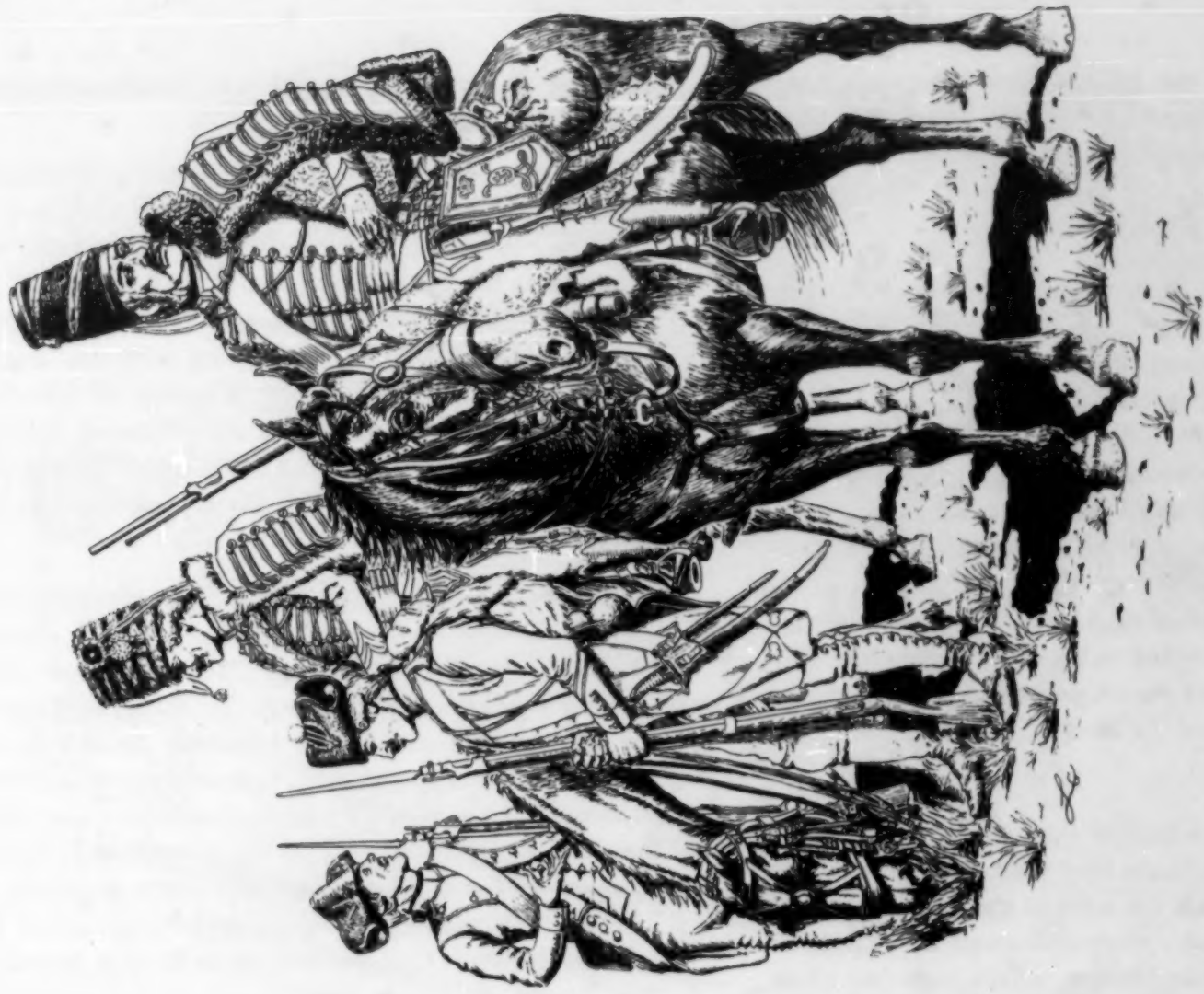
On 13 July 1780 a portion of the Legion consisting of 300 calvary and 300 infantry and artillery arrived in the United States as part of the French forces under General Rochambeau. The hussars of the Legion were the only mounted troops in these forces. As such, they were usefully employed as scouts and couriers. Their

² Albert Depreaux, *Les Uniformes des troupes de la Marine et des troupes coloniales et Nord-Africaines*, Paris, 1931, 24-28; Charles M. Lefferts, *Uniforms . . . of the American Revolution*, New York, 1926, 247, 248.



Company Guide Musician Officer Cannoneer

U. S. Light Artillery Companies, Dress Uniform, 1857-1872



Officer and Sergeant of Grenadiers Officer and Trooper of Hussars

The Lauzun Legion, French Navy, 1780-1783

aggressive action on the British flank in the summer of 1781 during the operations around New York, and their work in containing Tarleton on Gloucester Point that fall were highlights of their service. The Legion returned to France in 1783.

There are very few contemporary illustrations of the dress of Lauzun's Legion; such as exist are usually to be found in paintings and engravings of the surrender at Yorktown. The descriptions which have survived are meager and in places conflicting. Charles M. Lefferts did a painting of the hussars passing in review before General Washington, which was in the Rodman Wana-maker Collection, but with all deference to this great student of American military dress, his reconstruction leaves something to be desired. As far as is known, no French artist has attempted to show the unit except in a very stylized picture of the off side of a mounted hussar which occurs in Alfred de Marbot, *Costumes militaires français* (1830-60).

The infantry of the Legion wore sky blue coats with yellow pipings and cuffs, sky blue vests, and red breeches. Otherwise it was much the same as the line infantry of the period. The cavalry were uniformed and equipped as hussars with sky blue dolmans, yellow cuffs and white lace loops, tall hussar bonnets with black felt pennants trimmed with yellow, sky blue pelisses lined with white sheepskin, edged with black, and decorated with white lace loops, and yellow breeches. Hussar officers wore the same dress as the men with the notable exceptions of a white cloth pelisse and red breeches. Staff and field officers wore a *kolbach* of martin fur, and their dress increased in richness of trimming with the rank

until that of the Duke himself was literally encrusted with gilt.³

Following the return of Lauzun's Legion to France, it was disbanded by the Royal Ordinance of 14 September 1783, but by the same authority its cavalry was re-organized as the Hussars of Lauzun, an Army unit. In 1791 the regiment was redesignated 6th Hussars, then 5th Hussars in 1793. After fighting with the Grand Army from Austerlitz through Waterloo it was disbanded in 1815. Reconstituted the following year, it once again served in America 1861-1865 during the Mexican affair and comes down to the present still as the 5th Hussars.

I wish gratefully to acknowledge help received from several individuals. Chiefly, I wish to thank H. Charles McBarron, Jr. and Frederick P. Todd for their constructive criticism and assistance. In France the courteous and valuable aid of the following gentlemen has invoked my lasting gratitude: Colonel Charles de Cossé Brissac, formerly with L'Ecole de Guerre and now commanding the 501st Tank Regiment of the French Second Armored Division; M. E. Marchal, Curator of Musée de l'Armée, Les Invalides, Paris; M. Alexander Cart of the Librairie Militaire Cart, Paris; M. Jean Brunon, Marseille. And finally, at a very early period in my research I received the help and assistance of Herbert Knoetel of Berlin.

Col. Harry C. Larter

³The materials on which this description, and consequently the plate, are based are so fugitive that a complete citation here would be longer than the article. Much of it comes from the personal studies of the author in the French War Department Library, the Army Museum at the Invalides, the Historical Museum at Strassburg, and the Collection Brunon.

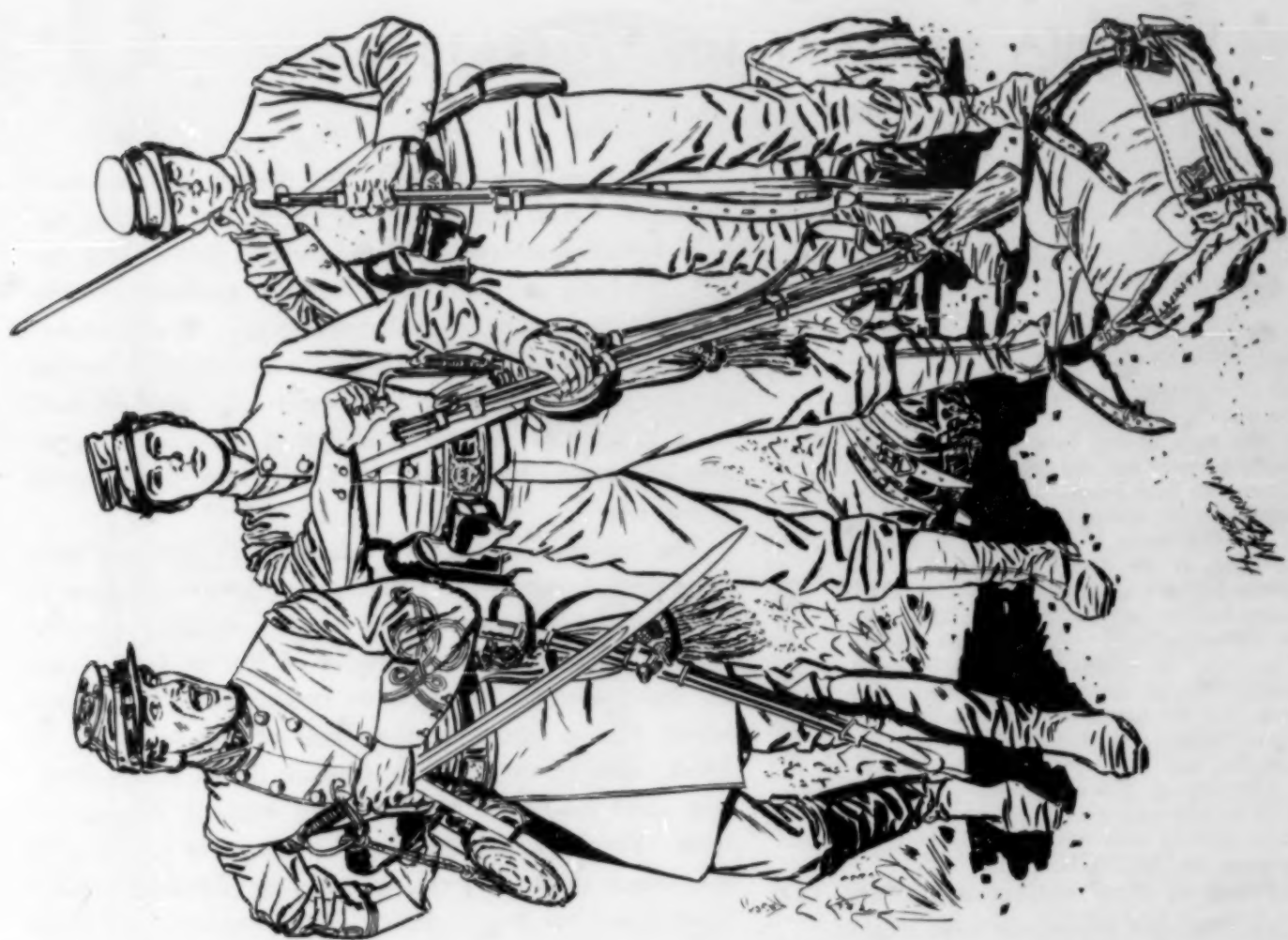
2d U. S. INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1841-1851

(Plate No. 39)

In Plate No. 14 of this series is shown the full dress uniform for foot artillery. Here is a companion piece illustrating the winter dress uniform worn by the infantry of the same general period. There were, of course, minor variations introduced during the ten years covered, but the chief item that limits the plate to 1841 is the single shoulder belt and sliding frog worn by the private, as described in *Ordinance Regulations* for 1841. The uniforms are those prescribed in regulations in force from 1834 to 1851.

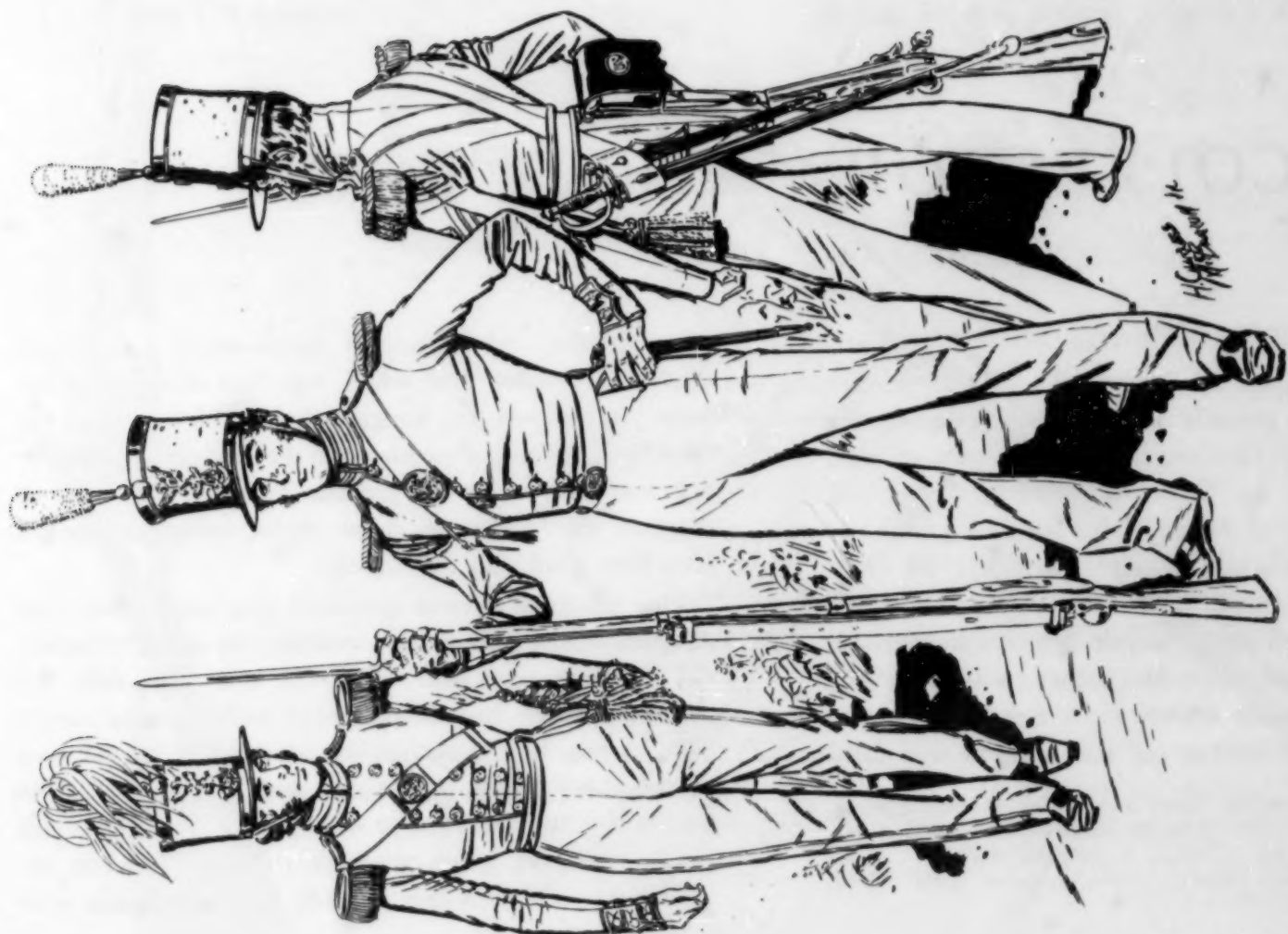
The National Museum in Washington has a splendid collection of uniforms of this period, valuable particularly because they show the dress of enlisted men. Pictures are not uncommon; the *U. S. Military Magazine* for April 1841 contains a plate showing an infantry captain in full dress, and a delightful (if highly critical) little book by "An American Soldier" entitled *Recollections of the United States Army* . . . (2d edition, Boston, 1845), contains a woodcut of a sergeant major.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.



Professor Captain Cadet Officer Cadet

Virginia Military Institute, 1864



Captain Private First Sergeant

2nd U. S. Infantry Regiment, Winter Dress Uniform, 1841-1851

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, 1864

(Plate No. 40)

An article by John S. Wise in *Century Magazine* for January 1889 contains the story of the V. M. I. cadets at the Battle of Newmarket, Virginia, 15 May 1864. It also includes an interesting account of their dress and equipment on that fateful day when they lost 56 cadets out of a corps of 225. Mr. Wise writes:

In May, 1862, the cadets had been marched to Jackson's aid at McDowell in the Shenandoah Valley. They had arrived too late to take part in the battle, but the effect of the march had been to wear out the last vestige of the peace uniforms. Then we had resort to coarse sheep's-gray jacket and trousers, with seven buttons and a plain black tape stripe . . . We were content with a simple forage cap, blue or gray, as we could procure it. The cadet of to-day disports himself in white cross-belts, shining plates, and patent-leather accouterments. Then, we had a plain leather cartridge-box, and waist-belt with a harness buckle. The cadet of to-day handles a bronzed-barreled breech-loading rifle, of the latest Springfield pattern. Then, we went into the battle of New Market with muzzle-loading Belgian rifles as clumsy as pickaxes.

As the war progressed, our uniforms ceased to be uniforms; for as the difficulty of procuring cloth increased we were permitted to supply ourselves with whatever our parents could procure, and in time we appeared in every shade from Melton gray to Georgia butternut.

On the Sunday morning of New Market the cadets formed their line of battle under protection of a slight rise. "Knapsacks, blankets, everything but guns, canteens, and cartridge-boxes were thrown down upon the ground. . . . With a peculiar nervous jerk we pulled

our cartridge-boxes round to the front and tightened our belts." And thus attired, as shown in the plate, the cadet battalion marched over the crest of the hill with the light tripping gait of French infantry against the Germans under Union General Franz Sigel. The nervousness of the professor has also been indicated as he has unthinkingly transferred his sword into an awkward position and fumbles with the flap of his holster preparatory to drawing his revolver with his right hand instead of his left.

The museum of the Virginia Military Institute contains several cadet jackets believed to have been worn at New Market. They are all of rough gray cloth, severely plain. There are also examples of the uniform worn by the professors, as well as contemporary paintings which further illustrate the dress of the battalion in 1864. One of these, in the Chapel, shows an unidentified cadet officer or NCO, clearly without insignia of rank. Finally, in the Chapel, also hangs the painting of the attack done in modern times by Benjamin West Clinedienst but based upon careful research. All these sources have been used in making the plate described.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

Frederick P. Todd

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

EARLY BRITISH GRENADE LAUNCHERS

On the following page are illustrated a British grenade and two types of grenade launchers used during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Examples of both types still exist in the Tower of London, the earliest bearing the cypher of James II on the lock plate, and the later ones bearing the dates 1728, 1739, 1740, 1744, and 1747.¹

The grenade itself was a simple device. It consisted of a hollow iron ball about 3¼ inches in diameter and containing on one side a vent for a fuse. When prepared for use, the interior of the grenade was filled

with powder, and a fuse of quick-match was passed through a wooden plug which was then driven into the vent. In ordinary use, the grenadier lit the fuse from the constantly burning slow-match in the case on his shoulder belt and then threw the grenade by hand. In order to increase the range of these shells, however, special launchers were also developed.

One of these devices consisted of a cup which was attached to the muzzle of a musket. In order to launch the grenades with this apparatus, one man held the musket (which had been loaded with powder only) with its butt braced against the ground. A second man placed the grenade in the cup and lit its fuse. The soldier holding the musket then pulled the trigger and prayed that the piece wouldn't misfire. Muskets intended for use with this grenade cup were made with

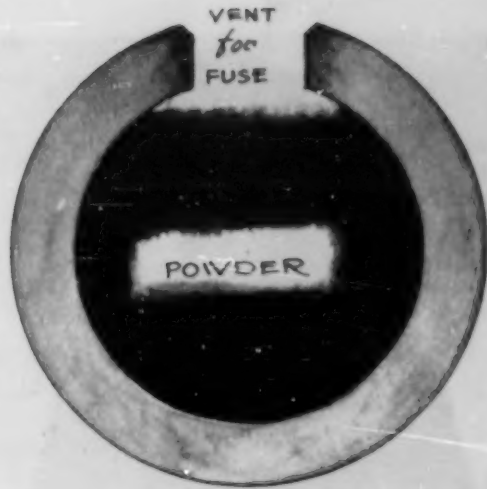
¹ John N. George, *English Guns and Rifles*, Onslow County, North Carolina, 1947, 73. Charles Houlkes, *Arms and Armament*, London, 1945, 65. Cecil C. P. Lawson, *A History of the Uniform of the British Army*, 2 vols., London, 1940, 1941, II, 48.



MUSKET
with
GRENADE
CUP
attached
to
MUZZLE



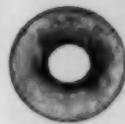
HAND
GRENADE



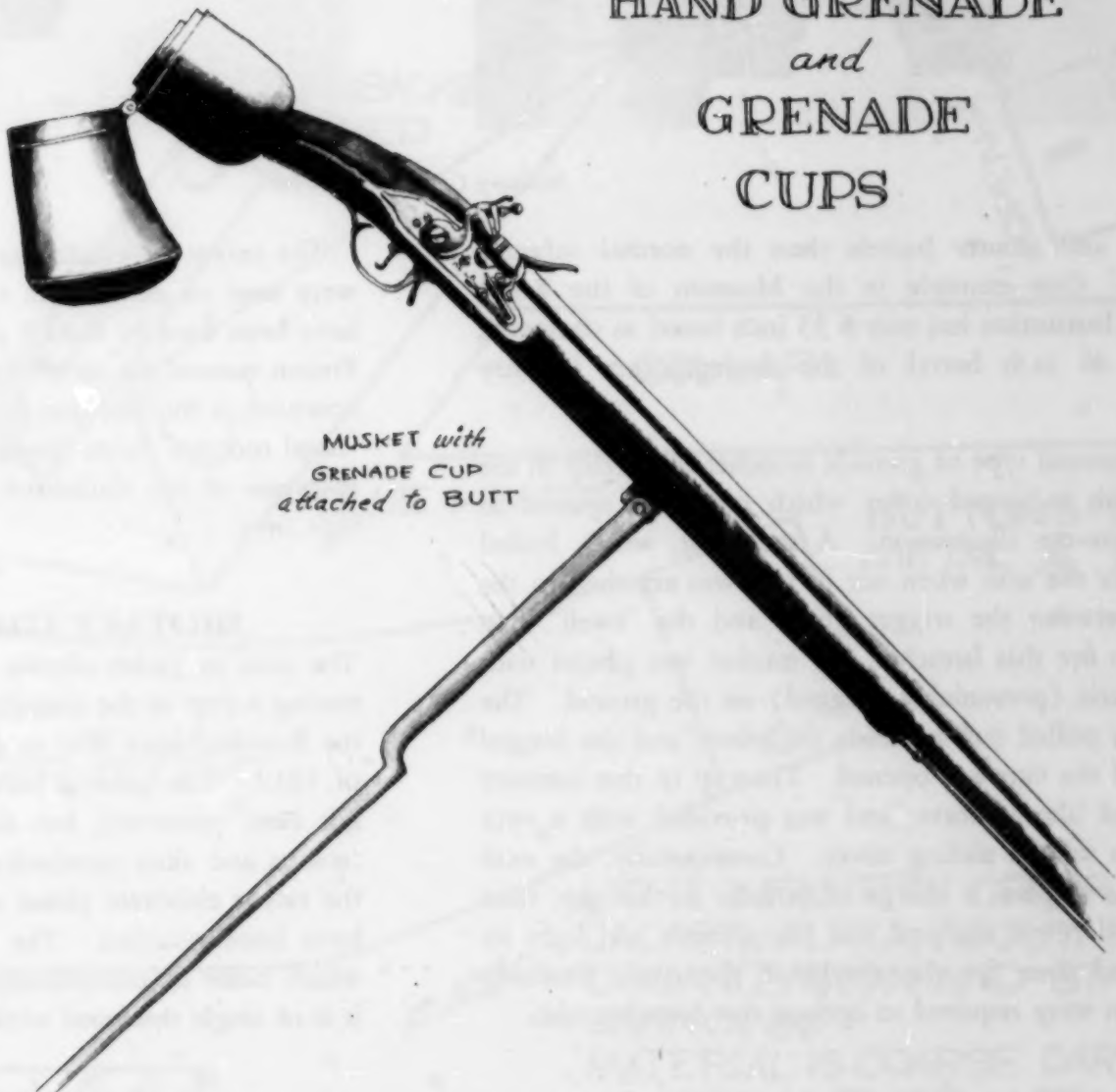
VENT
for
FUSE

POWDER

PLUG for FUSE



BRITISH HAND GRENADE and GRENADE CUPS



MUSKET with
GRENADE CUP
attached to BUTT



Military Coat, about 1790.

shorter and stouter barrels than the normal infantry musket. One example in the Museum of the Royal Service Institution has only a 33 inch barrel as compared to the 46 inch barrel of the contemporary infantry musket.

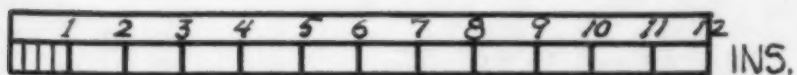
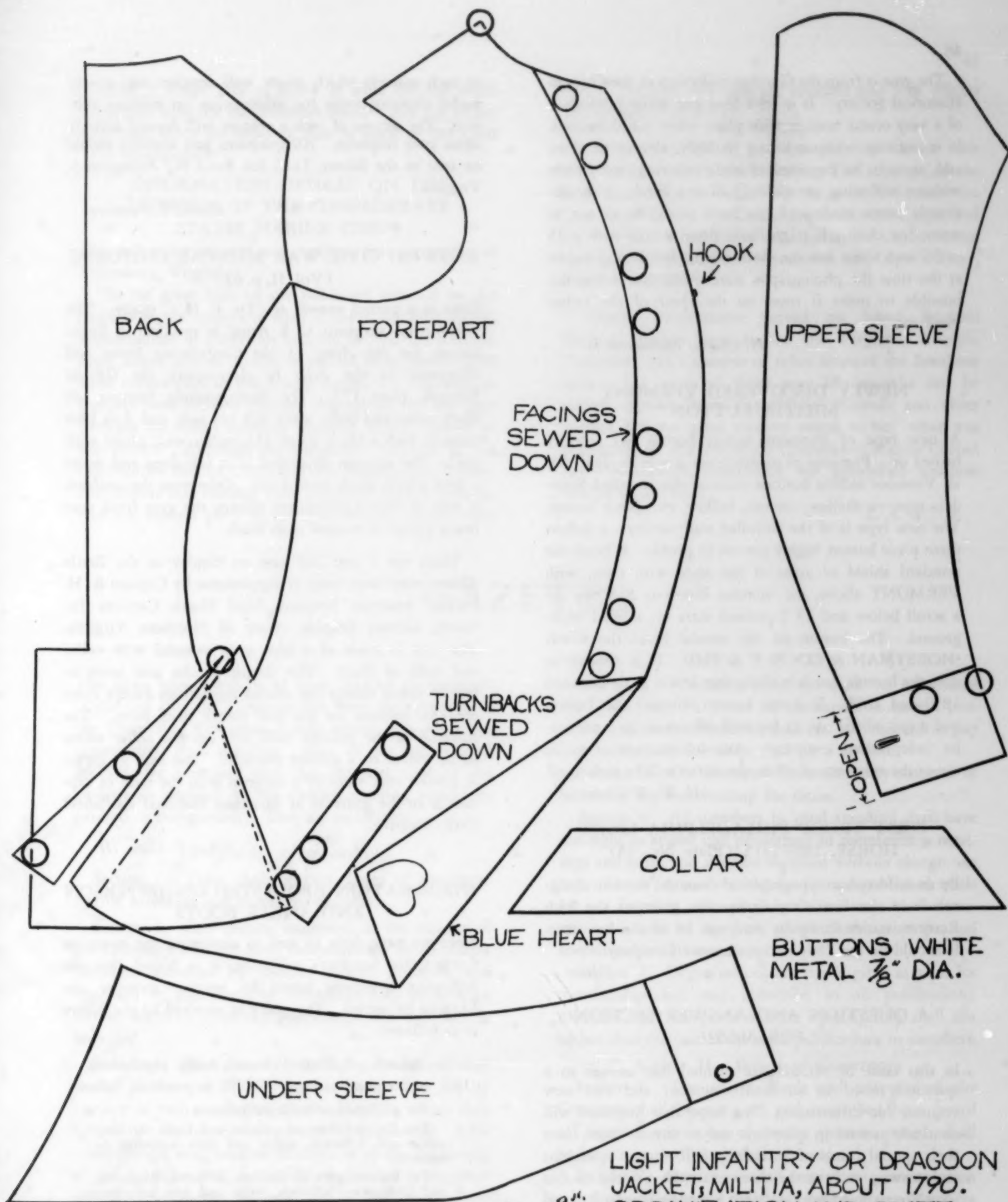
The second type of grenade launcher had a cup in the butt with a hinged cover which could be opened as shown in the illustration. A steel rest, which folded up under the arm when not in use, was attached to the stock between the trigger guard and the "swell". In order to fire this launcher, the musket was placed with the muzzle (presumably plugged) on the ground. The rest was pulled out to steady the piece, and the hinged cover of the cup was opened. The cup in this instance was fired like a mortar and was provided with a vent and pan with a sliding cover. Consequently, the next step was to place a charge of powder in the cup; then open and prime the pan, seat the grenade and light its fuse; and then fire the charge in the cup. Probably two men were required to operate this launcher also.

The extent to which these types of grenade launchers were used in America is not known. Some may well have been used by British grenadiers during the various French wars of the early 18th century. More interesting, however, is the fact that Maryland ordered a number of "hand mortars" from England in 1694. It may well be that one of the illustrated types came to Maryland at that time.

Herbert A. Sherlock

MILITARY COAT, ABOUT 1790

The coat or jacket shown here is interesting as illustrating a step in the transition from the true cutaway of the Revolutionary War to the round coatee of the War of 1812. The general form of the Revolutionary coat has been preserved, but the waist is higher, and the facings and skirt turnbacks are sewed down, although the rather elaborate pleats and the fullness of the skirts have been retained. The collar is the standing type which came in immediately after the Revolution; here it is of single thickness without a turnover.



LIGHT INFANTRY OR DRAGOON
JACKET, MILITIA, ABOUT 1790.
ORGANIZATION AND STATE
UNKNOWN.
MATERIAL IS COARSE DARK BLUE
HOMESPUN FACED WITH WHITE.

The coat is from the Gunther collection in the Chicago Historical Society. It is dark blue and white homespun of a very coarse texture with plain white metal buttons. It is entirely without lining in body, sleeves or skirt, and, as is to be expected of early tailoring, completely without stiffening or wadding of any kind. It is obviously home made and has been pieced so as not to waste any cloth. It might have fitted a man with a 35 or 36 inch chest but the cloth was so brittle and rotten at the time the photographs were made that it was not possible to make it meet on the chest of the rather small model.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

NEWLY DISCOVERED VERMONT MILITIA BUTTON

A new type of Vermont militia button has recently turned up. Previous to its discovery it was thought that all Vermont militia buttons were of the so-called Saunders type—a shallow, convex, hollow, two piece button. The new type is of the so-called staff variety—a hollow three piece button, highly convex in profile. It bears the standard shield of arms of the state with crest, with VERMONT above, the mottoes Freedom & Unity on a scroll below and 13 5-pointed stars on a lined background. The button on the reverse bears the words •HORSTMAN & CO• N Y & PHI•. It is difficult to date the button, but it is likely that it was made between 1850 and 1870. It is not known whether this button had a specialized use, as for staff officers or by a particular independent company. Any information as to its use or the existence of other specimens will be welcomed.

H. W. Williams

FIRST TROOP PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE, 1809-1815 (Plate No. 33)

By an unfortunate typographical error the modern designation of the First City Troop was given as the 18th Reconnaissance Company on page 14 of the last issue. It should be the 28th Reconnaissance Company.

Editor.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION FOR MC&H

In this issue of MC&H are printed one answer to a question raised in an earlier number and two new requests for information. We hope that members will continue to send in questions and to answer them from their special funds of knowledge. If enough questions and answers such as the three examples printed in this issue are received, we can begin a regular section devoted

to such matters which might well develop into a very useful clearing-house for information on military subjects. The success of such a venture will depend entirely upon your response. All questions and answers should be sent to the Editor, 5113 8th Road N., Arlington 5, Virginia.

Harold L. Peterson.

ANSWER: CIVIL WAR MEDICAL UNIFORMS (Vol. II, p. 62)

Here is a partial answer to "Dr. F. H.'s" query. The uniform for surgeons, C. S. Army, is specified in *Regulations for the Army of the Confederate States* and illustrated in the *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records*, plate 172. The distinguishing features are black collar and cuffs, green silk net sash, and dark blue trousers with a black stripe 1¼ inches wide piped with gold. The surgeon illustrated is in full dress and wears a gold edged, black cocked hat. Otherwise the uniform is that of other Confederate officers, the gray frock coat being piped all around with black.

There are a coat and sash on display in the Battle Abbey; they were worn at Appomattox by Captain R. H. Parker, Assistant Surgeon, 32nd North Carolina Infantry, Grimes Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. The coat is made of a blue gray material with collar and cuffs of black. The details of the coat seem to follow rather closely the official regulations except there are two buttons on the cuff rather than three. The material of the pointed cuffs and upright collar seems to be velvet or a similar material. The sash is green. A similar coat worn by a surgeon with the rank of captain is in the museum at Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia.

Alban P. Shaw, III

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON JEFFERSON AND ANKLE BOOTS

Since we have done so well in answering the query on Confederate Surgeon's uniforms, it is hoped that the following questions raised by another member can likewise be settled. The query as received by the Editor is as follows:

"In a book of United States Army regulations of 1863, under the heading 'BOOTS' it reads as follows:

For all Officers—Ankle or Jefferson.

For Enlisted men of cavalry and Light Artillery ankle and Jefferson, rights and lefts according to pattern.

For Enlisted men of Artillery, Infantry, Engineers, and Ordnance—Jefferson, rights and lefts according to pattern.

What I would like to know is what are the ankle boots and what are the Jefferson boots? Are the Jefferson boots the high boots as seen in some of the Civil War photographs?"

INFORMATION DESIRED ON THE UNIFORM OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES MARINE CORPS

The following inquiry was received from a reader in Petersburg, Virginia:

"In the great bulk of the published material on the Civil War, the services of what is one of the least known organizations in American military history, the Confederate States Marine Corps, is seldom mentioned. Like their counterpart in the Union forces, the Confederate marines were actively engaged throughout the war performing the duties normally assigned to that branch of the service. Although the authorized strength of the Confederate Marine Corps was one thousand and eighty-two officers and enlisted men, available records indicate that the highest peak of strength reached, at any time

during the war, was only six hundred and fifty officers and enlisted marines.

"Many of the officers had seen previous service with the United States Marines Corps. The adjutant of the Confederate Marine Corps was Major Israel Green, who as a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, had led the detachment of marines against the engine house during the John Brown insurrection at Harper's Ferry, October, 1859.

"Marine detachments served on board Raphael Semmes' *Sumter*, and aboard the *Virginia*, *Georgia*, *Tennessee*, and a number of other ships of the Southern navy. The story of these gray leathernecks can be pieced together from the *Official Records* and other sources, but the great mystery seems to be: what was the regulation uniform of the Confederate Marine Corps? Any information concerning the prescribed uniform will be appreciated."

L. A. W., Jr.

GAZETTE

The news which will be of most interest to members is the fact that the Company has been incorporated in the District of Columbia, a step which now gives the organization legal standing. Also, in the last issue of *MC&H*, we promised that the complete text of the by-laws as adopted at the charter meeting would be printed in this number. They are as follows:

Article I. Membership

Section 1. There shall be two classes of members: Active Members and Honorary Members.

Section 2. Any person interested in the objects of the Company who has been recommended by an Active Member, seconded by another Active Member, and approved by the Board of Governors may become an Active Member upon the payment of the dues herein provided.

Section 3. The dues of all Active Members shall be five dollars per annum payable on the first day of January of each year. Any Active Member whose dues become six months in arrears may be suspended. New memberships shall become effective as of the beginning of the calendar year in which application is received unless an applicant requests his or her membership commence as of the beginning of the following year.

Section 4. Honorary Members shall be nominated and elected by the Board of Governors as herein provided. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay dues. Honorary Members shall have no vote.

Section 5. The Board of Governors may suspend or terminate any membership for cause.

Section 6. All members in good standing shall have the right to attend and participate in membership meetings and trips, and shall be supplied without charge one copy of each issue of the regular journal published while he is a member. The Board of Governors shall determine the cost to members of all meetings, trips and special publications.

Section 7. Organizations are not eligible as such for membership but may subscribe to all publications, *provided*, that the price of such subscriptions shall not be less than the cost of the same publications to members.

Article II. Board of Governors

Section 1. The affairs, funds and property of the Company shall be managed and controlled by a board of directors consisting of twelve persons, which shall be known as the Board of Governors.

Section 2. Governors shall receive no compensation and shall at the time of their election be Active Members in good standing.

Section 3. Except for those elected at the initial meeting of the Company, the term of each Governor shall begin on the first day of January following election and be for three years, and the term of one-third of the Governors shall end on the last day of December each year.

Section 4. An election of Governors shall be held to fill vacancies expected at the end of each year, on or before the first of December of the same year, and such election shall be by written ballot conducted by mail among the entire Active Membership. The Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of such election, including the nomination of suitable candidates, but this shall not act to prevent any Active Member from making his own nominations and causing them to be sent to the entire membership. Election shall be by plurality vote, and the nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 5. The Board of Governors shall meet at least once each calendar year. A majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and except as otherwise provided by the laws of the District of Columbia, all questions shall be decided by a majority of the Governors voting.

Article III. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Company shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor, each having the powers and duties usually incident to his office.

Section 2. Officers shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Board of Governors from among Active Members in good standing. The Board of Governors may appoint other officers and prescribe their duties, and may combine two or more offices in one same person. The term of officers shall normally be for one year, but in all cases they will remain in office until their successors are appointed.

Section 3. The President, or in his absence a Vice-President, shall preside at all regular meetings of the Board of Governors and of the membership. The Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall submit to the Board of Governors annual reports and such other reports as the Board may require, and the Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget for its approval.

Article IV. Seal

The seal of the Company shall be, within an upright elliptical band bearing the inscription Company of Military Collectors & Historians, an American rifleman, head to sinister.

Article V. Amendment

The Certificate of Incorporation, except as otherwise provided by the laws of the District of Columbia, and

these By-laws may be amended by resolution of the Board of Governors and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Active Members voting conducted by mail among the entire membership.

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Back in 1948, when plans were being laid for what is now the Company of Military Collectors & Historians, it was decided to adopt as insignia for the group the figure of one of the American riflemen raised by Congress at the outbreak of the Revolution. Hugh McBarron did the drawing, familiar to all of us. This year the Army decided to determine once and for all just when it was born and to celebrate the event. Careful study brought out that this date was 14 June 1775, when Congress authorized the rifle companies symbolized by our insignia. It is of some interest, then, to tell the story of these men and what they represent to us today. The following statement, originally written for *MC&H*, has been incorporated in a letter order by the Adjutant General, U. S. Army, dated 25 May 1951 to the Chief of Army Field Forces and Commanding Generals.

When the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on 10 May 1775 the British Army was pinned down in Boston by a loosely organized force composed of the troops of four New England colonies: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire—ill-trained, poorly supplied, and enlisted for short terms of service. From Boston came news which made clear to Congress the need of taking control of this and other forces collecting for the common defense.

Convinced that a single, national army was needed, Congress took its initial step in establishing one on 14 June 1775 by authorizing the organization of ten companies of riflemen—six from Pennsylvania, two each from Virginia and Maryland, to "join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief officer of that army." The men were to be enlisted for one year. These were the first of the Continentals—our first regulars; their establishment on 14 June marks the birthday of the United States Army.

The next step was to select a commander in chief, and the following day, on 15 June, Congress unanimously elected George Washington to the post, a selection so fortunate that our national liberty literally hinges upon the fact. Two days later the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought near Boston.

On the 23d Washington set forth from Philadelphia with a small staff. Riding steadily, he entered the American lines around Boston on 2 July and formally took command of the little army on the 3d. For the next eight months he and his officers struggled cease-

lessly to forge the motley regiments he found there into a competent military force. Fortunately the British did not interfere. When at last he had the satisfaction of standing on the earthworks—it was on St. Patrick's Day of 1776—and of watching the British battalions march down to their transports in Boston harbor, he knew that behind him stood, as he had written, "the new army, which in every point of view is entirely Continental."

What happened to the rifle companies that had been established? The first of these companies to reach Boston arrived in the American lines at dusk on a day late in July. According to the story, Washington watched the dusty column march up and called out to its tall captain to ask whence they came. Daniel Morgan's answer was music to the commander-in-chief's ears: "From the right bank of the Potomac, General." The frontiersmen from Virginia had marched 600 miles in twenty-one days. Washington flung himself from his horse and clasped each man's hand as tears filled his eyes.

Within a few weeks, too, the others had reached the army—Hugh Stevenson's company from what is now West Virginia; Cresnap's and Price's companies, both raised in and around Frederick, Maryland; and eight companies raised in different parts of Pennsylvania, by then organized into a battalion under Colonel William Thompson.

Newspapers of the period are full of accounts of the march of these men to Boston, of their rough frontier dress and their amazing demonstration of skill with the rifle, of their imitations of Indian War dances given gaudily painted and stripped to the waist, and of the scourge they were to Tories found along the road.

Many of the riflemen had painted "LIBERTY OR DEATH" across their chests; others carried the insignia of the coiled rattlesnake with the legend "DON'T TREAD ON ME."

Life in the trenches around Boston soon grew too tame for these frontiersmen, and many of the companies marched off with Arnold on his daring but ill-starred attempt to take Quebec. Others expanded in size—for they had no trouble in those early days in finding suitable recruits—and in time out of them grew such celebrated regiments as Hand's 1st Continental Infantry and Morgan's Virginia Riflemen. These first regulars were indeed the elite of the Revolutionary army, and they remain a model for American soldiers to this day.

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We want to report on the Military Collectors Society of New York of which Martine Fine, active member of the COMPANY, is Chairman. This report is sent to us by Member John Putnam.

The group was founded in October 1950 to promote interest in and collection of military books, prints, post cards, figurines, weapons, badges and the like. A mimeographed journal called "The Militarist" is issued four times a year. The first number appeared last January with about ten pages of news and military notes.

Members of this Society are confined to the Greater New York area. They meet informally from time to time at one another's homes, but hope in due course to secure a room in which to house exhibits and books. Dues are nominal. The Secretary: Harry Becker, 2011 18th Street, Astoria, L. I., N. Y.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

Member Richard D. Steuart and William A. Albaugh, III, have collaborated on a *Handbook of Confederate Swords*. Although it does not pretend to be a definitive study, it illustrates and describes 54 different Confederate swords and is, in its own words, "a starting point for those that follow." Available from Arms Collectors Service, 6844 Gorsten Street, Philadelphia 19, and other arms book dealers for \$2.00.

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An announcement has been received that Ray Riling, a member of our Board of Governors, is preparing a book on powder flasks that is scheduled for this fall. We have been privileged to inspect some of the pictures

of the more than 1,000 flasks that have already been photographed and are happy to report that they are excellent. More details will be given in the fall or winter issue after the book has been published.

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The "Schenley Scots" have reached the Canadian Army. Within recent months the O'Keefe Brewing Company, Ltd., of Toronto, Canada, produced two attractive color plates of Canadian regiments in a series cleverly titled "Tradition Counts." Covered are the Royal Regiment of Canada and the Royal 22nd Regiment. Each plate shows a soldier in full dress uniform (one modern and the other as of 1866) together with an enlarged view of

a headdress and of a regimental insignia. Unfortunately only a limited distribution of the plates can be made to the United States.

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The April 1950 edition of *News from Home*, published by the Home Insurance Company of New York, is devoted almost entirely to the Scots in the French and Indian War and related subjects. The magazine is profusely illustrated with covers and six full pages in color. There are articles on Bouquet's campaigns of 1763 and 1764, bagpipe music, Scottish dress, Fort Ticonderoga, and Scottish weapons. If interested write Public Relations Department, The Home Insurance Company, 59 Maiden Lane, New York 8, New York.

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The above item was brought to our attention by one of our British members, Captain Russell V. Steele, of London. Captain Steele has also sent over a copy of "A Souvenir of the Scottish United Services Museum with a Short Guide to the Galleries," issued by Edinburgh Castle. It contains sixteen pages of photographs of military uniforms and weapons with particularly interesting pictures of hats, badges and sporrans. It may be secured from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Edinburgh, Scotland, for ninepence, plus sixpence postage.

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Still available through Gale & Polden, Ltd., Aldershot, England, are these worthwhile books and charts:

Lt.-Col. Howard N. Cole, *Heraldry in War: Formation Badges 1939-45*, a coverage of British and some Allied shoulder sleeve insignia used in World War II. Over 500 badges are illustrated, and six pages are in full color. 12/6. Full color wall chart "Formation Badges, 1939-46" showing 136 badges. 7/6.

Major Laurence L. Gordon, *British Battles and Medals*, a book compiled by a collector for collectors, describing and illustrating all the British campaign medals and stars that have been given for service throughout the world from 1588 to 1949. 63/—.

Full color wall chart "Decorations and Medals" showing 94 medals and decorations. 7/6.

★ ★ ★

In our opinion one of the most attractive books on British Army insignia ever to be published is Major T. J. Edwards, *Badges of H. M. Services*, 3d edition, 1946. It contains 134 full color illustrations of regimental badges, taken from samples embroidered by the Royal School of Needlework, London. Each picture is accompanied by a brief history of the regiment. The book is still in print, and copies may be obtained for 8/6 from Wm. Briggs & Co. Ltd., 34 Cannon Street, Manchester 4, England.

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We have heard of but, as yet, been unable to see a copy of J. B. Kirkwood, *The Regiments of Scotland: Their Histories, Badges, Tartans, etc.*, Edinburgh: The Moray Press, 1949. Includes information on Yeomanry and Territorials as well as commonwealth Scottish units. We hope to be able to report further on this one.

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A set of forty colored plates of uniforms of the Portuguese Army from 1721 to 1816 have been issued by "Defesa Nacional," Rua Alves Correia, 34, Lisboa, Portugal. The drawings are by Carlos Ribeiro and cover many unusual types. We understand that additional numbers are to be published.

COMPANY OF MILITARY COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS

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The Company of Military Collectors & Historians is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the study of military history and traditions, especially of the United States; and in particular to the diffusion of knowledge of the artifacts and pictorial aspects thereof.

The *Military Collector & Historian* is published quarterly by the Company of Military Collectors & Historians and is sent free to all members. Non-members are charged a subscription price of \$5.00 a year. A series of hand-colored prints of American

military and naval costume is available to subscribers and members for \$12.50 a year extra. Both plates and magazine are published without profit.

All inquiries concerning the Company or subscriptions to the plates and magazine should be addressed to the Secretary, Capt. Paul M. Linton, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois. All correspondence concerning the magazine and plates themselves should be addressed to the editor, Harold L. Peterson, 5113 8th Road N., Arlington 5, Virginia.

